

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 546

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EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CB, TH, US

SUBJ: U.S.-CAMBODIAN RELATIONS

REF: (A) 75 STATE 282411 (B) 75 BANGKOK 26004

1. DURING COURSE OF GENERAL CONVERSATION ON FOREIGN MINISTER PHICHAI'S JUNE 16-17 VISIT TO CAMBODIA, CHAWAN CHAWANID, DEPUTY DIRGEN OF THE POLITICAL DEPARTMENT AT MFA, WHO ACCOMPANIED HIM, VOLUNTEERED TO EMBOFF INFORMATION THAT RTG HAS NOT FORGOTTEN OUR REQUEST TO CONVEY TO CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT THAT USG BEARS NO HOSTILITY TOWARD IT. HE SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO OPPORTUNITY DURING THE TRIP TO RAISE THE SUBJECT, BUT IT IS NOT OUT OF MIND.

2. COMMENT. EMBASSY HAD WONDERED WHETHER PHICHAI WAS AWARE OF OUR REQUEST, WHICH WAS LAST DISCUSSED WHEN THEN ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB LUNCHEDED WITH FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN IN DECEMBER (REF B). AT THAT TIME, CHATCHAI'S MANNER IN REPORTING THAT HE HAD RAISED IT WITH CAMBODIAN DEPTUTY PRIME MINISTER IENG SARY LED US TO DOUBT THAT HE ACTUALLY PASSED THE MESSAGE, BUT CHATCHAI PROMISED TO PURSUE IT AT HIS NEXT MEETING WITH HIM, WHICH NEVER OCCURRDD. CHAWAN'S COMMENT SUGGESTS THAT PHICHAI WAS INDEED BRIEFED.

3. EMBOFF ALSO TOLD CHAWAN OF OUR INTEREST IN LEARNING ANYTHING ABOUT THE FATE OF CAMBODIANS WHO ARE RETURNING HOME FROM FRANCE AND THE U.S., SHOULD THE THAI HEAR ANY NEWS. CHAWAN EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THOSE CAMBODIANS WOULD NOT HAVE AN EASY TIME OF

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WHITEHOUSE

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